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CHINA IN THE BIBLE

We are indebted to the Rev. M. A. Hopkins for a copy of K. S. Lee's 80 page booklet on China in the Bible. The foreword by the author was signed in Shanghai April 13, 1957, but the book was published in Hong Kong. -- Question: Did he have any trouble getting the manuscript out from Shanghai to Hong Kong?

Our readers will remember K. S. Lee as the owner and manager of the one time Christian Broadcasting Station in Shanghai. He states in the Preface that he first got the idea for the book from Lee Jui, a well-known Hankow merchant.

He believes that the Chinese are descendants of Shem, that they are referred to frequently in the Bible, and that the Wise Men from the East were really from China. Either the name or the Biblical record suggests the descendants of four sons of Shem, but all such indication is lacking for the fifth son Lud, and so by a process of elimination he settles upon Lud as the ancestor of the Chinese. This conclusion he confirms by this observation: "His name is the only monosyllable in the list and the Chinese language is monosyllabic, such as Shem, Lud, Chen, Li, etc." (No more far-fetched than many inferences I have seen in Biblical criticism.)

The Wise Men from the East were Chinese. During the Han Dynasty Sian was the capital, and that is directly east of Jerusalem, in almost exactly the same latitude. And when they arrived at Bethlehem, they "did exactly what the Chinese people do when they kowtow to their emperor. 'They presented unto him gifts,' thus again showing their Chinese custom, for the Chinese people from time immemorial have always brought presents to the new born babe the first time they come to see him. Furthermore, they did much better than the Roman Catholics, for they did not worship Mary, the so-called 'mother of God'."

He concludes with this poignant prayer: "Lord, thou art the Lord God of Shem; have mercy on us, the numerous offspring of our father Shem. Lord, raise up prophets among the Chinese people who may be courageous enough and clean enough for Thy use for the salvation of lost souls in this vast nation for the glory of Jesus Christ the Lord and Saviour. In His name we ask. Amen."

Since the above was written we have received word that K. S. Lee died in Shanghai on March 15.

SUNDAY IN PEKING

Reuters describes a typical Sunday in Peking nowadays in a May 3 dispatch that begins as

Issued bi-weekly to keep mission boards and missionaries informed on Christian work in China. Information from Chinese church magazines and other Chinese sources is passed on as objectively as possible, with a minimum of interpretation. When interpretation is necessary, it is enclosed in parentheses as the comment of the editor. ANNUAL RATES: Domestic, $2.00; Overseas, Firstclass $4.00, Secondclass $3.00. Airmail $5.00 in 15¢ zone, $7.00 in 25¢ zone.

follows: "China's Communist rulers have repudiated the Christian Sabbath, but for most of Peking's five million inhabitants Sunday is the jolliest day of a lack-luster week."

From some source the reporter was informed that there are 20,000 Christians enrolled in the capital's 80 churches, - an average of 250 members per church. But not more than a quarter of these are to be found in church on an average Sunday morning. There are also comparatively few children in Sunday School, for Sunday is the time for meetings of the Pioneers, a Communist movement for boys and girls. All under 13 are encouraged to join the Pioneers, whose activities range from elementary classes in Marxism to campaigns for stamping out the four evils - rats, mice, sparrows and mosquitoes.

Many housewives work in factories and offices, and so for them Sunday is shopping day. Some shopkeepers say that they do more business on Sunday than in all the rest of the week. University students work on Sundays at digging roads, ditches and reservoirs, planting trees, etc. Street committees often call meetings of the street residents for Sunday morning, after which some of the residents are kept busy writing posters and mural newspapers.

If the Communists do not recognize the sanctity of the Sabbath, they at least appreciate its utility. A letter in a recent Peking Daily proposed that Sunday be abolished, in order to increase factory output. The editor replied: "I admire your revolutionary enthusiasm, but your plan lacks foresight. It would endanger the health of the workers. They need their Sunday off."

CATHOLIC NEWS

As aftermath of the consecration of two bishops in Hankow on April 13, as reported in the last Bulletin, 82 Catholic priests and representatives of the church who had gathered in that city from all over China met on April 17, four days later, and passed a resolution supporting the consecration and protesting against Vatican opposition. They were from Peking, Shanghai, 20 different provinces and one autonomous region. The resolution warned that "the patriotic Catholics of China must be on guard, for the Holy See will not be reconciled to its defeat," and added that "they must not be fooled by any barbaric, unreasonable, hypocritical or shameless tricks by the Holy See."

It is reported that elections of new bishops have also taken place in Shanghai, Chengtu, Canton and other dioceses, and now that the consecration break-through has been established, we may expect to see further services of consecration in these cities.

RNS in an April 24 bulletin calls it "an intensified drive to set up a schismatic Catholic Church completely free of Vatican control." However, the Patriotic Associations have at least thus far been endeavoring to draw a line between religious and patriotic questions, and have declared their independence only in regard to the latter. They will probably continue to give nominal adherence on religious matters to the Vatican, unless the latter forces the issue by wholesale excommunications.

Will the Vatican thus force the issue? The Catholic International Fides News-Service comments on the news of the consecration as follows: "We are confronted with an act of extreme seriousness; serious not only because of the canonical sanctions which the responsible persons would unfortunately incur according to the norm of the Decree of the Holy Office; but also because it is a new sign, particularly clear and indicative, of the dolorous conditions under which the Clergy and Catholics of China are living."

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHINA'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS

A study by a competent observer, as yet unpublished, has been made of the economic progress in China under the Communist Government, and the possible implications of this progress for the backward nations of Asia and Africa.

The writer reaches the conclusion that China is an increasingly important participant in the economic competition between the Communist bloc and the West. It is true that there are not serious and complicated problems confronting Peking in its domestic economy and in its balance of payments, and that this may impose limitations for the future, but the rate of growth to date

as been very impressive. During the first five year plan which has just ended, national income increased 50%, total national output 60%, modern industrial output 120%, and agricultural output 25%. There have been especially notable gains in key heavy industries. The Communists hope of course to continue this rate of growth during the second five year plan, but here is a serious lag in agricultural output, due largely to deliberate neglect of agricultural needs in the first five year plan, and this may inhibit growth during the second period.

They are working hard to correct this weakness. We have already pointed out the great irrigation efforts of the past winter. To this is being added a greatly increased emphasis upon the manufacture of fertilizers and of more modern tools, but whether this new emphasis will be in time to prevent a general slowing down in the rate of progress for the country as a whole remains to be seen. However they have made more rapid progress during recent years than any other major underdeveloped nation. The rate of growth has been much faster than in India, and there is even the possibility that they may overtake Japan during the next decade. This fact cannot help but have great psychological impact upon the other underdeveloped nations of Asia and Africa.

It is true of course that they have paid a high price for this economic progress. They have had to submit to totalitarian rule, to the suppression of individual freedom, to a revolutionary upheaval of Chinese society, to enforced austerity and economic hardship. The question is whether other nations will be impressed more by the high price to be paid or by the economic progress attained.

Most of China's foreign trade is with the Communist bloc, but since 1956 the proportion of trade with non-Communist nations has been rising. This is mostly with the other nations of Asia and Africa. The total trade of Communist China with the free world was greater in 1956 than Nationalist China's world trade in 1948.

THE NEXT STEP IN AGRICULTURE

A New York Times dispatch from Hong Kong of May 3 indicates that the Communists are now ready to move on to the next stage of agricultural organization -- the state farm. There were now only 710 state farms, cultivating about 3,300,000 acres, but by the end of the second five-year plan this area will be tripled.

The state farm organization is found particularly useful for newly reclaimed lands, and so its use will be especially marked in Sinkiang, Tsinghai and other new areas. The Tsinghai Daily News, published in Sining, reported recently that the settler method had not worked, - a large proportion of the settlers brought in from Honan, Hopei and other regions had left the reclaimed lands and drifted into nearby cities or returned to their home districts. In general they had two complaints: they found life there too hard, and they were discriminated against by the local inhabitants. The Government expects that state farm workers will be more easily controlled.

The Peking Radio announced on May 3 that during the first five-year plan the proportion of irrigated land to total arable land had increased from 16.3% to 51%.

As indicated in the previous article, increased farm production will have a much bigger place in the second five-year plan than in the first. There were food shortages in various areas last year, and this is said to have caused the Government considerable concern. However, the four southern provinces of Kwangsi, Kwangtung, Yunnan and Kiangsi have reported a bumper winter crop of two and a half million tons, said to be 44% greater than the year before.

In Northeast China the Government is ordering the planting of maize instead of millet, as the former is said to have a yield from 33 to 45% greater.

MISSIONARY NEWS

Recent deaths: Rev. C. B. Rappe, formerly with the Methodist Mission in West China, on April 3; Dr. F. W. Goddard, formerly Baptist missionary in Shaohing, East China (He was the grandson of two pioneer missionaries, and wrote the story of the Dean and Goddard families in

a book Called to Cathay, published in 1948.) on March 15; Rev. Jesse E. Moncrieff, Baptis missionary in West China and author of several books on Chinese language study, on Februar 20; Dr. James V. Latimer, formerly Baptist missionary and also YMCA Secretary in China, February 2; Miss Melvina Sollman, formerly Baptist missionary in Swatow, on April 13; M Mary K. Russell, formerly Methodist missionary in Shantung and in Nanking, on April 18; Floyd C. Wilcox, former Baptist missionary in Ningpo and Shanghai, on April 20.

CHURCH NEWS

A letter from Hong Kong, dated April 22, reports that "about half of the main church leaders in Canton were arrested recently." The reason for this crackdown is not given, but since the anti-rightist campaign is still on, it is natural to assume some connection. The le goes on to say that Miss Muriel Lester had just come through Canton, and was greatly surpris that she saw no church leader there, and was not even allowed to stop, and the correspondent considers this another indication of a point which Hong Kong observers are constantly stressi namely that naive visitors to the mainland do not quite know what they are seeing or not see

Dr. S. C. Leung, retired YMCA General Secretary now living in Hong Kong, was the r speaker at the joint annual dinner party of the Alumni Associations of the China Christian U versities held there on March 29. His subject was "An Evaluation of the Christian Universit in China." He pays particular tribute to the pioneering work of Cheeloo University in stress the use of the Chinese language as the medium for college education. Although these univ ties have now been integrated in the public school system, he finds consolation in the thoug that "leadership is never lost", and that the personalities developed in these schools will co tinue to exert a Christian and liberalizing influence. Dr. Leung was honored on May 10 at reception celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of his service as a YMCA Secretary.

The number of Catholics in Hong Kong has increased from 10,000 in 1945 to over 125, Last year alone there were 16,000 conversions, and Easter baptisms numbered 2,552. Of co a large part of the increase during these years has come through migration from the mainlan

An English version of Canon Leclercq's biography in French of Father Lebbe, entitled Thunder in the Distance, has been published by Sheed and Ward. Father Lebbe was the Cat lic missionary of a past generation who insisted on getting Chinese bishops for the Church in China.

GENERAL NEWS

We learn from Mrs. Endicott that a representative from China was present for the secon annual meeting of nuclear scientists which was held in Canada in April. He was Prof. Chou Pei-yuan, Vice-rector of Peking University. The Moderator of the United Church of Canad Rev. James S. Thomson, was one of the sponsors of this meeting.

Some 8,000 fishermen in 1,000 fishing junks have escaped from China to Hong Kong si September 1955. This is because they do not like the terms under which they are being org ized as fishing cooperatives. Their boats and equipment would be taken over by the govern ment, as well as 80% of the catch. The price of the 20% left to them will also be regulate the government, and paid to them not in money but in kind, with severely rationed food. N bers of the same family are to be placed in different boats, and the waters in which they ar operate will be strictly designated. It is reported that 91% of the fishing population of Chin already organized into such cooperatives.

Over 700 visitors from 43 countries were present in Peking for this year's May Day cele brations. Among the different types of delegations mentioned, cultural, scientific, etc., ligious delegations are also mentioned, though from what country or what religion is not sta

A great cenotaph in honor of the People's Heroes has been erected in the south end of T An Men square. It is some 100 feet in height, and rises 13 feet higher than the Tien An Ga itself. The historical sculptures in relief indicate the historical moments which are now co sidered significant; they are: The destruction of opium by the angry people of Fymoon on Ju 3, 1839, on the eve of the Opium War; the Taiping uprising at Chintien on January 11, 185 the Wuchang uprising in the 1911 revolution; the students' demonstration in front of Tien An Men during the May 4 Movement in 1919; the May 30 Movement against imperialist oppres in 1925; the August 1, 1927 uprising in Nanchang which led to the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army; the guerilla warfare during the war of resistance to Japan; the Pe Liberation Army's march across the Yangtze River to liberate the entire country in 1949; th people's support for and their welcome to the Liberation Army (Quoted from Hsinhua News port.).

Passenger shipping between Shanghai and Wenchow, which was discontinued after Libe ation, started again on April 17.